

REMARKS/DISCUSSION:

This Amendment is being filed within three months after the shortened statutory period for response that ended on October 13, 2005. Accordingly, a Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time is attached hereto.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 27-32 are pending in this application. Claims 2-20 and 26 have been canceled (claims 21-25 were previously withdrawn).

Amendment and/or cancellation of certain claims shall not be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims previously presented. Further, Applicant(s) reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of such claims in continuation and/or divisional applications.

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. Applicants acknowledge the allowable subject matter contained in claims 26, 27 and 29-32. This Amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-20, 22-25 and 28 stand rejected as being indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 26; claims 2-20 and 26 have been canceled; and claims 27, and 29-32 have been amended to be dependent upon newly amended claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the current rejection has been overcome and request reconsideration.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) or 103(a)

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 stand rejected as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, as obvious over Kuenemund (3,781,717). Claim 1 has been amended to

include the allowable subject matter of claim 26, and claims 2-5 and 7-10 have been canceled. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 6, 15 and 28 stand rejected as being obvious over Kuenemund. Claims 6 and 15 have been rejected; and claim 28 is dependent upon newly amended claim 1. Reconsideration is requested.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that in view of the discussion and claim amendments, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, 102 and 103 have been overcome and that the invention is now patentable over the cited prior. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider all rejections and pass this case to issue.

Should any minor points remain prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required to Account No. 10-0750/END-748/VEK.

Respectfully submitted,

Vern E. Kreger, Jr., Reg. #35231/
Vern E. Kreger, Jr.

Vern E. Kreger, Jr.
Attorney for the Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 35,231

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
513 337-3295
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